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Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes

Date: January 19, 2018

Time: 10:07 a.m.

Place: Aftercare Conference Room, Chicago, IL

APPROVED: March 16, 2018

IO 1.0 **CALL TO ORDER** by President Heidi Mueller at 9:47 a.m.

1.1 **Roll Call**

1.2. Board Members Present: Heidi Mueller, Patrick Griffin, David Green, Jennifer Vidis, Dr. Heather Dalmage, Tresa Dunbar Garrett

1.3. Others present: Dr. Sophia Jones-Redmond, Superintendent of Schools; Deputy Director Eva Moore; Dr. Bambi Bethel-Leitschuh, Director of Special Education; Ricardo Johnson, Director of Career and Technical; Esther Yahnig, Assistant Legal Counsel; Dr. Denean Adams, and Maurice McAllister, Recorder.

AI 2.0 **CONSENT AGENDA**

2.1 **Approval of Agenda**

President Mueller motioned to move the approval of the January 19, 2018 agenda. Member Griffin motioned to approve the agenda and Member Dalmage seconded.

Voice Vote

Aye: Unanimous

Nay: None

Motion Carries

2.2 **Approval of Minutes**

Board Member Dalmage motioned to include the alignment with each board member assigned to a school as an ambassador. This alignment is approved as follows:

Member Patrick Griffin assigned to Maya Angelou Alternative High School
Member Jennifer Vidis assigned to Samuel Sublett Alternative High School

Member Heather Dalmage assigned to Thurgood Marshall Alternative High School

Member David Green assigned to Booker T. Washington Alternative High School

Member Tresa Dunbar Garrett assigned to Glencliffe Academy Alternative High School.

In addition, change member Teresa name to Tresa on the minutes.

President Mueller motioned to move the approval of the November 3, 2017 with the corrections state above. The motion was moved by Member Vidis and seconded by Member Dalmage.

Voice Vote

Aye: Unanimous

Nay: None

Motion Carries

IO 3.0 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No public comments.

IO 4.0 **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

4.1 **Dr. Leone's Filed Education Report, December 7, 2017**

President Mueller mentioned that in Dr. Leone's report he noted DJJ has made significant progress with some of the education provisions of the remedial plan at many facilities. The education program at St. Charles continues to struggle to meet the provisions of the remedial plan in education. Dr. Leone's report highlights the areas of full and partial compliances and a copy of his report is provided to each of you.

Superintendent Jones-Redmond mentioned that out of the eight areas of the education remedial plan, the school district is currently in full-compliance with Modified School Calendar and Special Education. We are working towards achieving full compliance in all areas. We were very close in achieving full compliance with the Substitute Teacher's Policy but this just shows that we are capable of achieving this area in full compliance. Our message is clear, special education is important in our schools. Overall, achieving full compliance with special education has ultimately been achieved by the hiring of a full-time Director of Special Education and the Special Education Resource Coordinators in each school. Dr. Bethel-Leitschuh and her entire team have been extraordinary with their services to the school district. The Education Department is still working hard on the other 6 areas of the remedial plan. This is a huge success for the school district's administration and special education program.

President Mueller mentioned that since 2014 when we moved in this remedial plan we were in noncompliance with all eight areas. We are happy that we are moving forward and the bar is achievable. Another area of concern with Dr. Leone mentioned is the current hiring process.

- As a long-term fix, we are addressing the hiring process with proposed legislature;
- We are in the early phase of contracting with Delta T. Group to assist bringing in qualified teachers;
- We are proposing to move from 12 month to 9 month work schedule; and
- We are proposing an increase entry pay at St. Charles as a way of attracting newly highly qualified teachers to the area.

On another note, the Department has a Youth Advisory Board (YAB) and we are trying to inculcate this board in with our work as board of education members. The Department met with the YAB about a week ago to discuss their interest with IDJJ – Board of Education. We would like to invite them to the board meetings by carving out space for them to speak and provide input to our policies. The youth associated with the YAB are currently in aftercare and are former residents of our facilities. The youth are recommended to the YAB by the Aftercare Specialist who has a coordinator that screens applications and make recommendations in conjunction with the Aftercare Specialist. What is the goal of those on the YAB? This would allow the youth to gain exposure in careers and leadership skills; mentoring and getting connected. We cannot be successful if we do not have the voice from people that can assist with our process.

IO 4.2 Eva Moore, Deputy Directory of Aftercare

President Mueller mentioned that Deputy Moore has met all areas of the Aftercare portion of the Consent Decree and are she is currently maintaining the Aftercare program for IDJJ. There were no Aftercare program established prior to Deputy Moore coming to IDJJ, she built out an aftercare case management center for the youth with her team of administrators and specialists.

Deputy Moore mentioned that she has worked with DOC for 20 years in private and corporate sectors and eventually landed with IDJJ as Deputy Director of Aftercare. She mentioned that Aftercare is composed of three (3) parts: Interstate Compact; Community Supervision; and the Placement Unit. What started as a pilot in 2011 came to light in 2014. The aftercare specialist model starts when the youth enters IDJJ facility until they discharge from aftercare. In January 2016 the aftercare placement centers went up across the State with 8 fully functioning offices. While under the Consent Decree, Aftercare was to have one placement coordinator for each facility across the State. She decided to hire a Regional Coordinator for the North and South of the State and currently have 9 aftercare placement specialists in the communities. Aftercare currently works with other

community base centers: DCFS; Chase; Storycatchers; and Bridges to Pathway which starts up next week. We are working to enhance our partnerships with City Colleges of Chicago and Cabrini Green Legal who provides attorneys for the youth during case planning, social work, etc. Whatever is being done in the school bleeds into the Aftercare program and the School District. We are currently using the Vera Model. This is a pilot guide provided by the Vera Institute of Justice. This model helps in goal setting which provides level of support in decision making.

IO 5.0 **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

IO 5.1 **New Staff**

Superintendent Jones-Redmond mentioned that the School District has hired new staff since our last meeting Dr. Denean Adams joined the team January 2, 2018 as the Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

Dr. Adams thanked the Director, School District and Board of Education for the opportunity to support the school district as the Assistant Superintendent of Schools. She mentioned that she has been in education for over 25 years with traditional education and looks forward to supporting the administration and ultimately the youth. Dr. Adams has visited four of the schools already and sees the possibilities and overly excited to do the job she was hired for. She is charged with seeing the Blended Learning Model in action with traditional educational practices in all the schools. She feels her strong curriculum background can bring success to educating our youth.

IO 5.2 **School Board Policy Plan Update**

Ms. Yahnig thanked the School District and Subcommittee for their assistance in reviewing Chapters 5 and 8 of the School District policies. She mentioned that the School District would not adopt all the policies in the PRESS but only the portions that pertain to our school district and our school settings, not as a traditional school setting as these do not serve our purpose. The policies were forwarded to each of you for review and comments. We are not able to review each policy today but bring your changes to Esther in two weeks and we can discuss as a final review when all chapters are complete. We plan to have these policies finalized by May 2018. The chapters that were forwarded were chapters 5 and 8: Chapter 5 focuses on Personnel; General and Professional; Chapter 8 focuses on Community Relations.

IO 5.3 **School District Staffing**

Superintendent Jones-Redmond mentioned that:

- St. Charles has hired 6 staff and 1 retired and come back on a 75 day contract. The Principal is onboard with high energy and we are continuing to post all vacant positions with Central Management Services (CMS) and an alternative website for a greater educational audience viewing.
- Chicago has openings but because of the delay in hiring, two candidates declined the position. We are continuing to post these positions until a qualified candidate is hired.

- Personal Service Contract Educator positions are being posted for St. Charles school to bring up the staffing totals. At this time, one candidate is hired and one position is being posted.

IO 5.4 Presentations at National and Local Conference

Superintendent Jones-Redmond mentioned that the School District is noting invitations received and approved to present across the State and at National Conferences. She mentioned that this is another way we are able to recruit our positions across Illinois. Some of the conferences we are invited to present are: The Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA) Conference, February 12, 2018 with Director Mueller, Aaron Harris and Dr. Jones-Redmond on the subject: Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice Reform Achievements; Mr. Ricardo Johnson and Dr. Joyce Nelson will be presenting at the ESSA Conference, February 14, 2018 on the subject: Helping Our Students Be Victorious Verses A Victim: An Educator's Story; Ms. Amy Stearns will be presenting at the National Youth at Risk Conference, Savannah, GA., March 2018, on the subject: Changing the Music; Understanding Educational Obstacles for Youth in the Foster Care; and Dr. Jones-Redmond along with one Harvard Professor and a Dr. John Sonnenberg from Pearson will be presenting at the South by Southwest (SxSW) Education Conference and Festival in Austin, TX., March 2018 on the subject: Disrupting the School to Prison Pipeline.

IO 5.5 Vocational and Post-Secondary Programming Across the School District Update

Mr. Ricardo Johnson mentioned that he is excited about the Career and Technical program thus far and enjoys bringing his experience to the school district. He mentioned that the paperwork for the Career and Technical Provisional licenses are being prepared at this time. He mentioned he is thinking of programs that can fit the needs of the community once the youth leaves our schools. The Department submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) in conjunction with the Bronzeville-based Luv Institute for a Grant with the Walmart Foundation. This grant focuses on extending pathways of IDJJ youth in Aftercare with various companies.

IO 5.6 October – December Special Education Reports

Dr. Bethel-Leitschuh mentioned that her program has come in full-compliance with her special education programs across the school district. She mentioned that sustainability is important for the youth and their IEPs. She knew a better data tool was needed to capture information on the youth. Overall, the school

district looks good as noted on the special education student monitor record status reports for the months of October, November and December 2017. She is currently working with the special education transitional committee and participates in the curriculum council meetings.

IO 5.7 **October – December Principal Data and Education Reports**

Superintendent Jones-Redmond mentioned that the school district has a newer format to the data coming out from the schools. The highlights to the educational data is the number of graduates in our school district from October 2017 to December 2017. We had 51 graduates which include: High School, GED and Eighth Grade Diplomas.

IO 6.0 **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Steps to being the Ambassador of the School are:

- School District will introduce you to the principal
- Tell the School District when you plan to visit
- Visit the school
- Research the school/facility
- Try to visit the schools by next board meeting

IO 7.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 12:20